

The Philatelic Communicator

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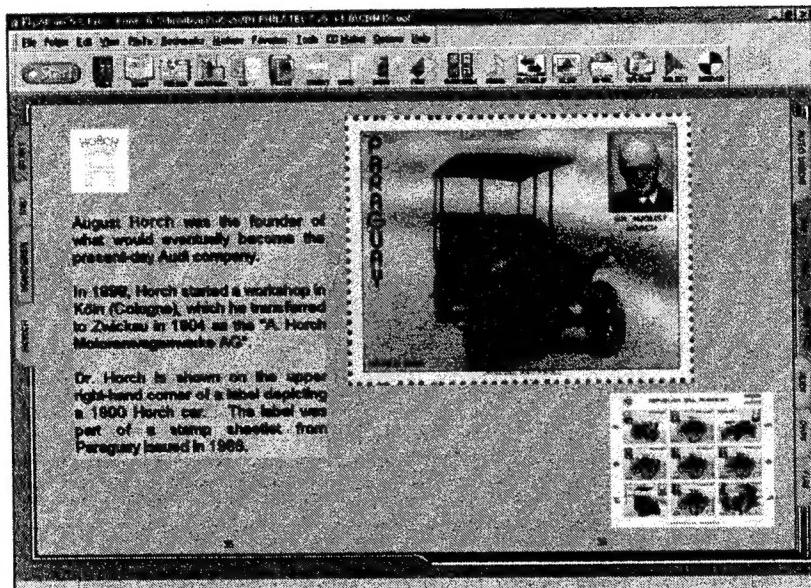
Self-publishing on a Dime

by Peter Elias

Call it writer's "itch"—ever since I was a teenager (in the 1970s) I was interested in someday publishing something about my favorite aspect of philately: St. Vincent. Well, the time has come. While I am still contemplating publishing something about St. Vincent (I've got many years of research ahead of me, perhaps even an "on-site" philatelic research trip — yes, those philatelic research trips to the Caribbean can be really tough!), I've had the opportunity to self-publish in another direction.

It started with a stamp. An early 1980s stamp from Tuvalu featuring an Audi Quattro to be specific. Why? I owned an Audi Coupe GT at the time and thought it was neat to have a stamp that featured a similar car. Later, I found more stamps featuring Audis. Then I delved into Audi's fascinating history and found even more philatelic items. Our local stamp club, to encourage collectors to exhibit, even had one-page and four-page exhibit categories (in addition to the usual one to ten-frame exhibits).

So, I entered a one-page exhibit. The next year it turned into a four-page exhibit and four years ago it nudged up to a full-frame (sixteen pages). Two years ago I managed to bump it into two frames and just this past fall I managed to get this to three frames (anything more and it would be a stretch).



Somewhere around the "one-frame" time, I contemplated making this exhibit available to others. Publishing a book was a first thought. However, the amount of effort and money required to publish a book on my own was daunting. I also did not need a garage full of unsold books. I figured that publishing electronically (i.e., CD-ROM) was a better way to go, especially considering the fact that my collection and exhibit of Audi related philatelic material was constantly growing.

I started looking into what others are doing regarding self-publishing on CD-ROMs. Here are the main ways of self-publishing on CD-ROMs that are out there and some of the pros and cons:

PUT A BUNCH OF JPG (OR OTHER IMAGE FILES) ON A CD-ROM

This is an extremely simple way of getting your philatelic items on a CD. Simply scan the stamps, covers, album pages and/or exhibit pages and burn them to a CD. The main problem is "navigation." The end-user will have to "open" the CD on the PC (or Mac as may be) and click on each file to view it (assuming that they have a compatible picture file viewer installed). Then there's the "organizational" problem. File names would have to be alphabetically or numerically named to allow the end-user to be able to follow your exhibit or story from beginning to end. I really don't recommend this method, but I have seen some examples.

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Manuscripts are solicited on subjects of interest to writers, editors and publishers of all forms of philatelic literature. All submissions for publication, without exception, are subject to being edited. Opinions expressed in *The Philatelic Communicator* are those of their authors, and not necessarily of Writers Unit 30, APS, its officers, editor, publisher or agents. Letters received by the editor may be published unless labeled "Not for Publication." When possible, furnish copy, including letters, on diskettes (WordPerfect 8, RTF or ASCII). Include printed copy with diskettes. All editorial matters must be handled with the editor.

DEADLINES—For receipt of copy by the editor:

First Quarter	Jan. 15
Second Quarter	April 15
Third Quarter	July 15
Fourth Quarter	Oct. 15

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Writers Unit 30 has as its primary objective the encouragement and improvement of philatelic writing in all of its various forms. Calendar year membership dues, payable in advance in U.S. funds through a U.S. bank or Post Office are:

USPS Zip code address	\$15.00
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Please report address changes to the Secretary-Treasurer as soon as known in order to avoid loss of issues.

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*The
Quill
Joe Foley*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This issue should arrive during the first quarter. One of my (few) New Year's Resolutions is being more timely this year. The objective is to get the copy to the printer so that all members will receive *The Philatelic Communicator* during the "appropriate" quarter.

WAVE(S) OF THE FUTURE (HERE ALREADY?)

Now, how about at least some of you making a resolution? At long last we have an article on creating a CD in this issue. When I received a review copy of Peter Elias' CD, I found it such a pleasure to navigate that I asked him to share his experience with us. The result is the feature article in this issue. I'm sure that at least some can provide some additional guidance on this subject.

The Winter 2005 issue of the (APS) *CAC Newsletter* carried an item looking for volunteers to help convert the APS slide programs to electronic format. Here's a quote:

Slide technology is quickly becoming dated. We have just learned that Kodak is no longer making slide projectors, and audio cassette tape recorders are virtually impossible to purchase.

We would like a way to preserve work done in the past and also allow a broader audience to view the slide shows.

The APS/APRL is certainly on the right track; "rescuing" these programs. The next step may very well be PowerPoint. This is just another form of communication. I'm sure many, and perhaps all of us, have seen a PowerPoint presentation. What would be welcome is a "how to" article on the subject. In the meantime, I found that my alma mater, the University of Rhode Island has a PowerPoint Tutorial on the Web at: <http://einstein.cs.uri.edu/tutorials/csc101/power%20point/ppt.html>.

On the subject of Webpages, at the APS Winter Meeting in Atlanta, I had the opportunity to see a really fine one by the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs. You can view it at <http://www.stampclubs.com/>. It's the product of two folks, both with extensive professional experience, one in marketing the other in computer technology.

ACROSS MY DESK

The Federation of New York Philatelic Societies publishes a bimonthly journal, *Stamp Insider*, on behalf of twenty-two stamp clubs. It's nicely done. The March-April 2005 issue ran fifty-two pages with good graphics, timely and useful articles, a calendar of events, advertising and a

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President's Message

by Peter Martin



The February Writers Unit breakfast at Ameristamp Expo in Atlanta was another success. A number of new faces joined the many regulars who attend these events.

The program began with a moment of silence in recognition of George Brett, Ernst Cohn and Calvet Hahn, three Writers Unit Hall of Fame members who passed away recently.

Officer reports were followed by a detailed presentation of *The Growing Pains of a Philatelic Book* by Robert Odenweller. Bob recounted the story of how his sold-out book, *The Stamps and Postal History of Nineteenth Century Samoa*, which received the literature Grand award at STAMPSHOW 2004, came to fruition and how technical hurdles were overcome. Even veteran writers and editors picked up an additional trick or two from Bob's experiences.

Member announcements were followed by the ever popular door prizes and adjournment.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

This is a call for nominations for officers and council members interested in serving the Writers Unit for the 2005-2007 term. To allow sufficient time for anyone interested in running for a position, including incumbents, to step forward a nomination deadline of April 15, 2005, has been set. If there are any contested positions, candidates will be asked to submit a statement/resume of no more than 300 words to be published in the Second Quarter issue of the *Philatelic Communicator*.

All officers and council members must be prepared to attend the annual meeting held after the STAMPSHOW Writers Unit #30 breakfast each year and to assume responsibility for one of the functional areas of the unit such as membership, recruiting, publicity, meetings, outreach, website, awards, Hall of Fame and special programs. You may e-mail your interest to pmartin2020@aol.com, or write to POB 4503, Danbury, CT 06813. All nominations must be received by April 15.

STAMPSHOW

STAMPSHOW 2005 will be held August 4-7 in Grand Rapids, Mich. The Writers Unit breakfast will be held Sunday at 8:30 a.m., followed by the Writers Unit council meeting at 10 a.m.

In addition, the Writers Unit is sponsoring a Writers

Forum, tentatively scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Friday. Guests include *Linn's Stamp News* editor Michael Schreiber, *Scott Stamp Monthly* editor Michael Baadke and *Chronicle of Classic Issues* editor Charles Peterson. Each will discuss an aspect of philatelic writing (news, feature and journal), including editor expectations and the most common submission problems in their areas. The presentations will be followed by a question and answer period. Plan now to attend and bring your questions.

WEBSITE

We have our domain name (www.WU30.org) now we need to move forward to put content on our site. We're looking for an individual who can assist Webmaster Andrew McFarlane in coordinating the effort to get the information to get the site up and running. Contact me if you have the desire to help.

LITERATURE GRAND AWARD

The American Philatelic Society has requested that the Writers Unit take over the sponsorship of the Literature Grand award at STAMPSHOW. This is a project that the council will be reviewing this spring. If you have comments or ideas for an appropriate awards or about the proposal, please let me hear from you. □

Defending Philately

by Janet Klug

The Philatelic Communicator's editor, Joe Foley, asked me to write some encouraging words to philatelic writers in order to keep up the momentum generated by several who answered the call.

What call is that? Ah, well, if you have to ask the question then it is time for a gentle reminder.

Shortly after I took office as APS President I met with the new APS Board of Directors for a planning session. APS Secretary Lloyd de Vries suggested that APS work with the Writers Unit to see if we could generate some philatelic articles in non-philatelic journals. Great idea!

So I contacted Pete Martin and Joe Foley, who saw it was good and worked on ways to make this happen by encouraging writers to write. Everybody wins, but the biggest winner of all is the hobby we love so dearly. Well, the net result is that last year several of you heeded the call and had articles published that presented philately to an audience of thousands of readers who may never have thought about stamps or realized how interesting they could be. Thank you!

You might wonder why this is important. You need look no further than a recent issue of *Time Magazine*,

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►►Self-publishing... (continued from page 1)

USE HTML PROGRAMMING

HTML programming (the same method that internet web pages use) is a great way to present items (pictures and text) and can have wonderful navigation (such as linking from one spot to another). I have seen several examples of "browser" based CDs and it is great from an end-user point of view. They can work on all major operating systems (Windows, MacIntosh and Linux). The biggest issue is for the producer is that you will have to learn HTML programming in order to create an effective product, as well as purchasing a good HTML editor, such as Microsoft Front Page (expensive) or various lesser-known products that let you create web pages.

VARIOUS SOFTWARE PACKAGES

Microsoft PowerPoint comes to mind. I have actually used PowerPoint for various philatelic programs (a much better way than using photographic slides), but I generally reserve this for presentations, not for an electronic book. PowerPoint does have the ability to export your presentation with a "viewer," so that people who do not have PowerPoint (it comes bundled with every Microsoft Office product) can still view your presentation.

FLIPALBUM

I personally like this method best. Specifically the commercially available program called "FlipAlbum."

EBook Systems publish FlipAlbum, but it is not a philatelic product. It was originally designed to allow people to share digital photos with family and friends quickly and easily. A scan of a stamp or cover is generally still a JPG file, and in that sense no different from a digital photo.

There are various products out there that allow you to organize digital photos and scans and provide a way to share them. Yet I needed something more than the ability just to line up a bunch of scans for someone to view easily. I needed the ability to easily "annotate" my stamps and covers (similar to an exhibit) so that I could more effectively tell the story. When I ran across FlipAlbum, it seemed like a natural fit. FlipAlbum is easy to use: you simply drag a copy of the picture or scan into the page. Then you can resize and add text ("annotate"). If you need to edit your picture, there is even an included photo editor. You can also get FlipAlbum to operate your scanner and bring an image directly into the FlipAlbum.

So what is a "flip album?" For the end-user, it looks and acts just like a (virtual) book. You use your mouse to click on the left or right page to either go to the next or previous page. The page will actually flip (turn) on screen as you do this as well as make a "page-turning" sound. The book will have a cover page, and also an index page and a

"thumbnail" page. Additionally, all pages can be "bookmarked" and a tab will appear on the side of the page. I find this great for defining different chapters. You can also navigate directly to any given page and find a page based on a keyword (of the file name).

There are some features that I have not used yet, such as the ability to add sound and video files into the flip album.

I got started by simply scanning my entire exhibit of *British Empire War Tax Issue Usages* and putting each scanned page on a page in the flip album. With my Audi exhibit though, I decided to bring the images in individually and then separately annotate each page with the appropriate text (see screen shot on page 1). Since an electronic book is different than a traditional topical/thematic exhibit, I did not want to simply scan my exhibit pages. I have much more freedom to tell the full story than in a traditional exhibit.

I basically have never really read the manual for the FlipAlbum software. I simply started using it. It was so simple and straightforward. I started off with the first version and am now up to FlipAlbum v5.5 Professional (in order to actually be able to "sell" your FlipAlbum CDs you will have to purchase the professional version since it gives you the explicit right to do so). Basically a FlipAlbum is designed on your computer. When you are finished, you tell the system to create the files necessary to burn to a CD. They then give you some options, such as whether the user is allowed to print pages, to encrypt the album, to give it an expiration date, whether the user can let the album play itself ("auto flip") and a few others.

As part of designing the FlipAlbum, you also have choices as to background page colors, the front & back cover colors and the "binding." There are a couple of templates provided with various themes, but I found that most are not useful for philatelic presentations (although would be great for doing your wedding album). I try to keep the pages simple and uncluttered with a reasonably neutral background color.

There is no real limit to the number of scans you can include. I have one flip album with more than 1,500 scans on it, but it does tend to run a bit slow. If you have that many scans, you can create multiple flip albums that you can then make appear on a "bookshelf." From this you can select an individual book. You can insert scans individually, or copy in an entire folder's worth. Scans can be lined up in the order you want, but if you have your files named alphabetically or numerically, you can sort that way as well.

Some of the abilities to design page elements are simple, so do not expect FlipAlbum to perform the same tasks as Adobe PageMaker, Microsoft Publisher or other page design packages.

FlipAlbums are designed to run automatically on a computer without the user having to install anything (although you can copy the entire contents of the CD to a local folder on your hard drive and run it much faster from there, simply because a hard drive is much faster than even a 48x CD-ROM drive).

A NOTE ABOUT MEDIA

You can basically self-publish your own CDs for about \$1.00 to \$2.00 using your own equipment, which would have to include a CD burner, blank CD-R media, jewel cases and label stock. As an Alternate to using labels, you can now buy "printable" CDs; although there are only a few suitable printers on the market, notable Epson. In addition you may also want to print a liner and back page for your jewel case. Whether you use labels or printable CDs, your costs will be about the same. Printable CDs cost a bit more than plain CD but then you don't need the labels. In any case, for professional appearance, the CD does need to be labeled. Now that printable CDs are coming to the market, I would recommend them over the labels simply since we do not know what will happen to the adhesive on a label after twenty years (think twenty-year-old "cellophane" tape).

For the utmost in professional production, you may want to have your CD officially "replicated" using a commercial production facility. These can produce CDs that are replicated (not "burned" as with home equipment) and screen printed. However, minimum quantities are generally in the 500 to 1,000 range. Costs start at about \$1.00 each for 1,000 copies. The advantage here would be no labor involved to produce many CDs. Imagine trying to burn 200 CDs, printing & applying labels, etc. The disadvantage is that you might end up with more CDs than you can sell, especially if your project has frequent revisions (such as mine). I simply produce CDs as needed.

My Audi CD, officially titled *4 Rings – The History of Audi* was entered in the 2003 TEMEX International Philatelic Literature exhibition (held in Buenos Aires, Argentina) where it was judged according to international FIP philatelic literature guidelines. It received a Vermeil award, so it would appear that the judges liked the presentation of the material.

While the Audi CD is my only true "eBook" (since it has a lot of write-up and annotations), I have created other philatelic reference works using FlipAlbums for my War Tax exhibit, St. Vincent stamps & postal history, St. Vincent postcards and Airport stamps & postal stationery.

And there you have it. A brief look into the software of choice for me to self-publish my various philatelic projects! If you have any questions, please e-mail me at info@stvincentstamps.com □

There is only one school of literature—that of talent.

—Vladimir Nabokov

Literature Exhibition Calendar

Coordinators of Literature Exhibitions are encouraged to submit full information, including a prospectus, for these listings. Please contact the editor well in advance of the closing date for entries.

April 8-10, 2005

COLOPEX 2005, at the Makoy Center, 5462 Center Street, Hilliard, Ohio 43026. This is a change of venue. Hilliard is a suburb on the west side of Columbus. Entries have closed. However, if interested, contact the individual noted below to see if a late application might be accepted. Information available from Bob Ross, Box 20582, Columbus, Ohio 43220, email: literature@colopex.com, Website: www.colopex.com.

June 3-5, 2005

NAPEX, McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., McLean, Virginia. Entries have closed. Entries have closed. However, if interested, contact the individual noted below to see if a late application might be accepted. Information available from Charles Peterson, Box 5559, Laurel, Maryland 20726, email: cjp7777@aol.com.

August 4-7, 2005

A.P.S. STAMPSHOW, DeVos Place, Grand Rapids, For information contact Ken Martin, APS, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellfonte, PA 16823, phone 814 933-3803 ext 218, fax 814 933-6128, e-mail: stampshow@stamps.org, Website (which will contain prospectus and entry forms): <http://www.stamps.org/StampShow/Intro.htm>.

October 7-9, 2005

SESCAL 2004, Los Angeles, California. For information contact: Wallace Craig, Chairman, SESCAL 2004, Box 3391, Fullerton, CA 92834, email: wamcraig@aol.com. Website: <http://www.sescal.org>.

October 14-16, 2005

Canada's Seventh National Philatelic Literature Exhibition (C7NPLE), Toronto, Entry fee \$25 Can for Canadian residents, \$25 U.S. for others, entries close August 31, 2005. Information available from C7NPLE, P. O. Box 2788, Station 'D,' Ottawa, ON, K1P 5W8, CANADA or from Cimon Morin, email: cimon.morin@lac-bac.gc.ca.

November 18-20, 2005

CHICAGOPEX 2002, Sheraton Chicago Northwest Hotel, 3400 West Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60005. Entry fee \$25, entries close August 15, 2005. For information contact John Kevin Doyle, 5815 Lenox Road, Lisle, IL 60532-3138, e-mail: doyle-stamps@att.net, Website: www.chicagopex.com. □



Experiences of a New Editor

by Al Gore

Editor of *The Compulatelist*, publication of The Philatelic Computing Study Group

BEING NAMED EDITOR

When the former editor of our newsletter decided to retire, there were not many volunteers. I had offered to help someone else since I did not believe I had enough experience, never having had any involvement in editing or generating a newsletter. I also have a full time job so my available time is limited. The prior editor was retired. My interest was more on the production side since I am very comfortable with computers. The closest experience I have with editing is creating product engineering specifications as part of my day job.

I am sure the retiring editor was looking for a replacement with more experience. He wrote more than half the material in each newsletter. I had been a once regular article contributor so I was not an unknown and the subject matter was not foreign. In the end, I think I was a desperation choice. During the transition phase, I received plenty of advice on the mechanics in getting the newsletter printed and mailed but little on the other aspects of being an editor. I had to learn the rest on my own.

Shortly after I produced my first newsletter, I did attend a Writers' Unit roundtable where I heard what others thought it meant to be an editor. It is a very serious craft to those with a focus on published scholarly literature. I heard comments that "real" editors should be doing other tasks such as fact checking and review boards. This was an eye-opener. The most thought provoking concept was responsibility for libel even if you publish disclaimers. My sole outward expense was to purchase a copy of the recommended, but not inexpensive, *The Chicago Manual of Style*. It has been of limited use.

GETTING ARTICLES

As mentioned earlier, I had been a fairly regular contributor to the newsletter before being named editor. However, I knew I could not write majority of the articles as the former editor did so I have been more aggressive in soliciting articles. I have been lucky, so far, to continue to generate a twenty-page issue every quarter. Despite pleas for contributions, articles are rarely received unsolicited and getting enough material is an art that I am still learning. One critical aspect of the job is having a broad enough background to know who the potential writers are. Thinking of an article topic is easy but it can be difficult to find someone available to write it. We do not pay an honorarium so there is no financial incentive either.

As I write this, I realize that editing should not be a

one-person job but I know it is for many editors. To be successful, the editor should have help in developing article ideas and recruiting writers. This is about time and priorities with an all-volunteer staff, including me. Since I do not claim to be an expert on all of the subjects in my newsletter or writing style, I generally run articles as provided. I correct spelling or obvious grammatical errors and adjust for formatting style consistency. I also depend on several people to proofread each issue.

CHOOSING CORRECT AUTHORING SOFTWARE

Most newsletter editors use a computer to create their publications themselves. My first task was to choose an authoring program. For many, the first logical choice is a word processing program such as Microsoft Word, already installed many personal computers, or Corel WordPerfect. My preferred word processor was Lotus WordPro since that was what I was using at the time.

However, there are also specialized page layout programs such as Microsoft Publisher and Serif Page Plus designed specifically for newsletters and similar publications. Microsoft Publisher can be purchased separately or part of Microsoft Office's Small Business Edition. The choice between a standard word processor and a specialized program depends on the type of publication. A word processor program's traditional behavior is a continuous page structure. As you type text or add graphics on a page when the text overflows the current page, a new page is automatically generated.

Specialized page layout programs do not use the concept of continuous pages. Each page is a separate one page document within the overall document. You create the relationships between pages if needed as you create the publication. This structure makes it very simple to control how the document responds to changes. If your goal is a twenty-page newsletter, you will not automatically be generating extra pages and then having to go back to a previous page to control the end of the document.

In a page layout program, all text and graphics are placed in frames and the text stays in the current frame on that page with any excess going into an overflow buffer. Then you decide how to handle the overflow such as a link between the text frame on one page and the text frame on the intended page. These programs also have numerous little timesaving features such as providing easy ways to do "continue on" and "from" page notations within articles, changing page layouts (like columns, margins) quickly, and

resizing text or graphic frames. These allow you to get an attractive newsletter in the minimum amount of time.

With every publication, you have to do some final adjustments to make the overall appearance acceptable. There are always tweaks such as fudging line spacing (expanding/contracting) and resizing graphics to eliminate white space. A page layout program will make this much easier since these are core functions and not buried deep in menus.

Since our newsletter is printed in a similar format as the *Philatelic Communicator* (printed on 11x17-inch paper and folded), pages have to be created in four page increments. To fill sixteen or twenty pages completely without a lot of white space is an extra challenge. Editing by removing text is a fairly easy way but filling space is more difficult but then what editor has too many articles. Articles rarely fill allotted spaces perfectly so a page layout program is handy to fine tune changes and due to the noncontinuous structure, you can adjust individual pages without worrying about all the other pages changing.

I obviously do not want to put down Microsoft Word since it can be used in many ways like a page layout program (frame concept). However, Word has significantly more overall function and a page layout program is optimized for a specific job without the overhead of the higher end word processing functions. For example, Microsoft Publisher does not support the concept of an outline structure (hierarchical format) or complicated tables and lists (number or bullet). These are features needed for creating long documents, not newsletter type publications.

The previous editor used WordPerfect and he worked around the word processing constraints somewhat by generating a new document for every page thus simulating what you get with a page layout program. This can solve some of the issues but the disadvantage is that you lose the relationships that help the text flow and end up with twenty unrelated pages representing one newsletter. However, the editor was very familiar with WordPerfect so he could make it work well enough for him.

The final choice is personal but generally the more varied the page layouts (text intermixed with graphics) within the pages and the less continuous the text flow between pages, the more likely a page layout program will be more efficient. I chose Microsoft Publisher.

SELECTING A PRINTER AND GETTING IT PRINTED

When I had to select a printer, I quoted copy shops and print shops. I found the prices for the locally owned copy shops to be the least expensive with the chain copy shops (Kinko's, office supply store chains) being slightly more expensive. The print shops were usually two times or more for offset printing than the copy shop prices. The pricing is

a la carte. You pay per copy, an extra cost for heavier stock, and then for each finishing operation such as folding and stapling. The largest variation in price was the finishing cost since this is a labor intensive task.

I selected a local copy shop. If someone is using an offset printer today and they do not need color nor have grayscale illustrations, a copy shop with the modern digital technology (not simply a photocopier place) is probably the best print method. The results will surprise some that still believe copy technology is not very good. Offset printing is not worth the premium for basic newsletters with photographs or grayscale illustrations.

To send the job to the printer, I create a high quality PDF (higher than normal print and image resolution) using Adobe Acrobat in the final 11x17-in format and then send it by e-mail. This PDF yields the highest quality results as it can be sent electronically directly to the digital printer. If you have to print a camera ready copy, I would strongly recommend printing the master on a twenty-four or 28 lb. smooth white paper using a 600-dpi minimum capable laser printer.

For 400 copies of a twenty-page newsletter using 11x17-in 60 lb. bond stock (five sheets folded, stapled, and trimmed to get a clean edge), the cost is less than \$1 per copy. I usually e-mail them the PDF at night, get a quote by noon the next day, and then pick it up on the second day. I use 60 lb. for better durability in the mail yet it is still just allows me to stay within the two-ounce mailing rate even for international.

MAILING AND DISTRIBUTION

After picking up the newsletter from the printer, I apply the mailing labels myself. The group secretary sends me the mailing address labels in Microsoft Word format ready for printing. I then just put the label stock in my laser printer and print the labels. I mail the issues to US addresses flat like the "PC" but I send international issues folded in a 6x9-inch envelope. I know some editors rely on the printer for this task, particularly if they are not in the same locale.

We mail all issues by first class or airmail depending on the address. This had been the practice since the cost was only about 30-cents more per issue over bulk mail. Members had complained about delivery delays with bulk mail. I did get a first class mail imprint permit (\$150 one-time cost) so I did not have to apply 300 stamps to the newsletters. With the permit, it only takes a few minutes to mail all the issues since there is no pre sorting required. The most time consuming task is applying the labels.

A COMPUTER CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET

By far, the single most valuable tool for me as an editor has been a computer connected to the Internet. I realize many editors still do a lot of work using regular mail but I

have only needed the mail once to obtain article material because a person did not have a scanner to capture some illustrations. Without the computer and the Internet, I could not have easily handled all the tasks. I assume some editors spend many days doing some tasks using normal mail.

I usually have two or three advertisers in each issue and they also send me the ads in soft copy format. This took some experimentation in learning how to handle encapsulated postscript (eps) files since most ads appear to be generated on Mac systems. The key is to be sure they embed all the fonts into the file. As softcopy, these are easy to insert directly into the document like any other graphic without a loss in quality.

In the final stages, I send drafts (various stages of completion) of the newsletter in Microsoft Word or PDF format to my proofreaders and they return the documents electronically with comments so this is a great time saver as well. If I have most of the articles in process, I can usually compile the entire newsletter fairly quickly within a few days over the weekend and some nights. Using the mail would add weeks to this process.

The only physical trip needed is to pickup the print job and mail it. I also offer a PDF version of the newsletter so members can get an electronic copy at the same time I send it to the printer. Although the printed copy is black printing, I do preserve the color in any graphics (like computer screen shots), so the PDF has the advantage of providing color as well.

As you can tell, I started the editor job from a computer-centric perspective since editing as defined by literature purists is something I am just starting to learn. I can send anyone a PDF version of the newsletter if they like. I would appreciate any feedback on content and style. I have not yet taken advantage of the critique service offered by WU30 but I plan to do that in the near future. □

GELDERT MEDAL

Harry Sutherland, chairman of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada's committee for the Geldert Medal announced that Dr. Robin McGrath of Newfoundland was awarded the medal for 2004. The medal is given for the best article of the year in *The Canadian Philatelist*, journal of the Royal.

Dr. McGrath's article "Simon Solomon: Newfoundland Postmaster" appeared in the January-February issue. It was selected for its exceptional research on a singular individual who served as the first postmaster of Newfoundland. □

Before I start to write, I always treat myself to a nice dry martini. Just one, to give me the courage to get started. After that, I am on my own.

—E. B. White

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

George Griffenhagen, Secretary-Treasurer

The odd-numbered years are election years for WU#30. The Bylaws (Article IV) states: "The officers shall be elected for two-year terms, while members of the Council shall serve terms of four years, with one-half of the Council being elected at two-year intervals. Members wishing to run for office may make themselves known to the nominating committee or may run for office by petition of the membership. Such nominations by petition shall be made with the support and signatures of at least ten (10) members in good standing." May 9, 2005, is the deadline for the secretary-treasurer to receive a slate of candidates.

Positions to be filled in the 2005 election include president, vice president east, vice president west, secretary-treasurer, and three members of the Council. The terms of office for Council members Lloyd A. de Vries, James W. Graue, Ronald E. Lesher, and Kenneth Trettin do not expire until 2007. Officers and those members of the Council whose terms expire in 2005 may seek re-election.

Those interested in running for office or for the Council should contact Peter D. Martin, P.O. Box 4503, Danbury, CT 06813-4503, or by e-mail at pmartin2020@aol.com. The election ballot will be included in the Second Quarter 2005 issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*.

The officers and Council members who are elected shall assume office at the end of WU#30 meeting held during the APS annual convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 4-7, 2005. □

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

As of February 23, 2005

Membership Status: As of February 22, 2005, a total of 183 members have paid their membership dues. Twenty-six paid for two years and 36 paid for three years. We also received a total of \$160.00 in contributions. We have had two deaths and one resignation. This leaves us with 29 members who have not yet paid their 2005 membership dues. A final notice is enclosed with this issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*.

We welcome the following new member:

1897 Frederick E. Lutt, 8561 Daly Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231-3615. Wants to know about philatelic writing. Sponsor: Alan Warren.

Reinstated:

1332 Peter Mosiondz, Jr., 26 Cameron Circle, Laurel Springs, NJ 08021-4861.

1644 Ted Bahry, P.O. Box 756, Carlsbad, CA 92018.

1838 James Berryhill, 1700 Plum Circle, Waco, TX 76706.

Change of Address:

1598 Peter P. McCann, 6660 Saint James Crossing, University Park, FL 34201-2238. (We previously reported the city as University City.)

1833 Dr. Peter Newroth, #603 - 5332 Sayward Hill Crescent, Victoria, BC, Canada V8Y 3H9. (Effective May 1, 2005)

Deceased:

0372 Robert H. Frederick died on January 6, 2005.

1000 Ernst M. Cohn died on December 30, 2004.

►►continued on page 9

►►The Quill (continued from page 2)

page for each club. By pooling their efforts they have done more than any one club might have accomplished on their own. What is most important, they have not lost track of the importance of local club news. Volume 21, September 2003 - July 2004 is also available on a CD. Not many "local clubs" can make that claim!

This one has some age to it. Rather than across my desk it's the result of cleaning some old files. The British journal *The Stamp Lover* had an excellent article index of current philatelic literature. This paper is the key to the publications indexed in 1974—215 in all, up from 153 in 1970. Some such as *The Essay Proof Journal* are no longer with us, but many still are. There have been some name changes and quite a few new entrants.

Modern indexing may involve the same basic steps, but the end product is usually in a much more useful electronic form. Just in, over the 'net, is Gene Fricks' latest installment, the sixty-ninth, of PHLNDX. Gene's indefatigable efforts are the backbone of the APRL journal index.

On the other hand, the partial index of the *Philatelic Literature Review* published in the fourth quarter 2004 issue is something of a missed opportunity. This hard copy subject index covers 1971-2004. One was published in 1971 covering the journals first twenty-eight years. Electronic media, preferably on the APRL Website, would have kept the index "live," provided for much greater cross-indexing, robust annotation, and included the journal from its inception. In any event, the "half-full" bottle will still be useful.

THE FUTURE

If any member is in the habit of just glancing at the *American Philatelist* and not really reading it, do yourself a big favor and read Janet Klug's "President's Column" on page 259 of the March 2005 issue.

A very impressive group has met and begun discussions on how to enhance the future of this hobby of ours. Janet has had this as an objective and it's about time for others to join. I'm impressed with the group—they're the right people for the job. Allen Kane, director of the National Postal Museum, is a prime mover and arranged for a White House session with Domestic Policy Advisors.

Janet has invited suggestions and comments. She can be reached at Box 250, Pleasant Plain, OH 45162 or on the 'net at tongajan@aol.com.

ARAGO

A new undertaking of the National Postal Museum is a very ambitious project—an online database containing a significant portion of the museum's philatelic collection that will include excellent graphics and concise descriptions. The project is named after the 19th century French scientist and friend of Smithsonian benefactor, James Smithson.

There are more than thirty research volunteers assisting the museum in research and review of the more than 6,000

objects selected for public viewing when the Website launches in March of next year. The staff has done an exemplary job in getting the project underway. Most of this material has been scanned and the quality of the graphics meets expectations. The software package appears user-friendly. □

A New Look (Actually three New Looks!)

Three philatelic journals have taken on quite a new appearance this year. *The Collectors Club Philatelist* with Bob Odenweller at the editor's desk has had a major face lift. The CCP has returned to using a coated stock and all the illustrations are now in full color and sharply focused. Substance has *not* been diminished. The quality of the articles continues to be of the highest standard. The font also is a bit different. This is more the result of a slight difference in word processing systems treating what was supposed to be the same.

As announced previously in *TPC*, WU30 Council Member Jim Graue is the new editor of the *German Postal Specialist*. Some changes here too. Twelve issues a year instead of ten and a slightly reduced page size so that a standard (and less expensive) stock can be used. Jim did this in such a way that the "text box" was not changed. In the February 2005 issue, there was some good advice for authors. Jim has agreed to a reprint in *TPC*. It will be in the next issue.

From across the "pond" the January 2005 *Cinderella Philatelist* has a new look. Coated stock and some use of color. The stock is rather heavy and Peter Rogers, the editor, mentioned to us that it was heavy enough to have an impact on postage cost. A lighter coated stock is contemplated.

To all three editors—congratulations, keep up the good work!

JEF □

►►Secy.-Treas. Report (continued from page 8)

Contributions: We are pleased to acknowledge the receipt of the following contributions over and above the payment of membership dues.

Diane D. Boehret	\$15.00	Eliot A. Landau	\$15.00
James Boyden	\$10.00	Robert Rawlins	\$15.00
Gerald J. Gallagher	\$35.00	Stephen Rod	\$10.00
		Alan Warren	\$60.00

□

The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.

—Mark Twain

On Writing for the General Press

by Michael O. Nowlan

For the collector, philatelic journals and newsletters are naturals for those who want to write about stamps while they often overlook secular publications that might happily take writing.

The general or non-philatelic press offers challenges and rewards to the philatelic writer. All research and writing takes time and can be hard work, but getting into the general press to spread the word about our hobby is an important outreach.

As one who has had considerable success writing about stamps for non-philatelic publications, I will set out some of my experiences that writers might find useful in communicating with editors in the non-stamp-collecting-world.

The first principle that must be considered is the audience. For the most part, the audience will not be and will never be stamp collectors. Our aim is to let the rest of the world know the importance of those little pieces of adhesives, beyond mailing letters, that stir the passion within. If a stamp or a series of stamps has an historic significance for stamp collectors, there is a good chance that editors of some non-stamp publications will be eager to publish an article or series of articles, provided they are written to a lay audience and accent the theme the publication represents.

This may sound like a tall order, but it isn't. The only difference is the writer must keep the audience in mind. Filling an article with technical philatelic terms will confuse, not only the editor, but also the audience. In that case, it stands a good chance of rejection before it gets published. I had that experience with my column on new issues with our daily newspaper when I used the term *tenant*. I did not explain it, so the editor was very concerned that readers would have difficulty with it. That was a fair criticism of my work. After that, I always explained stamp-specific terms, taking nothing for granted. Cover is another term that often confuses the ordinary audience. It is more direct to say a cover is an envelope. My classic misunderstanding was the title I used for one column that said something to the effect "New topicals add great diversity." In the newspaper the word "topicals" came out "tropicals."

Writing for a daily or weekly newspaper can be the high point for a philatelic writer. A big CAUTION, however, awaits. It is very difficult to get into writing a regular column for daily newspapers. There was a time when most such instruments had a weekly column on stamps, but there are few today. The week after I received my "Outreach Certificate" from Writers' Unit 30, my daily

abruptly ended my column that I had contributed for over a dozen years. It started as a weekly, then twice monthly, and then once every two months. I might have known the curtain was coming down. And it did!

A better approach with a daily or weekly newspaper is to be selective in what stories may appeal to an editor. Even though my column has been suspended indefinitely, the avenue for an article is still open if a new stamp issue or philatelic news item has a specific interest to the local reading audience.

If a new issue has a direct significance to a locale, phone, preferably visit, the local newspaper editor well in advance of the issue date and suggest a story linking it to a local historic event, personality, new development, or other specific theme. That has often worked for me with my daily newspaper, and, I hope, it will continue.

Another enticing writing opportunity comes from the journals published by historical societies. Those groups want to 'cover the field' so to speak with the history of their region, county, state, or province. Since I live in New Brunswick, Canada, I approached the editor of the York-Sunbury Historical Society journal, *The Officers' Quarterly*, which is based in New Brunswick's capital city, Fredericton. I told him New Brunswick had its own stamps before Canadian Confederation, including the famed Connell stamp, and that Canada Post had issued many stamps relating to New Brunswick history and geography. I even tossed in the little-known fact that New Brunswick had several internationally-recognized philatelic journals published in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

My pitch worked with the acceptance of a five-part series of articles, complete with illustrations. One part of the series was even featured as the cover story for that particular issue. That series ran about five years ago, and I still get positive comment about it.

Another great possibility comes from organizations. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Veterans' Association of Canada's famed police force has a very popular and informative journal based in the nation's capital, Ottawa. *The Quarterly* examines current news about the force, history, anecdotes, and major features. I approached the editor through the New Brunswick RCMP media representative, and wrote an article relating to all the stamps Canada Post issued that had an RCMP connection. Following its acceptance and publication, I worked directly with the editor on the preparation of three additional articles. She now knows my work and is prepared to consider any new material I care to submit in the future.

Organizations like Rotary and Lions Clubs that have widely-distributed journals are sources for this type of article too, especially since Rotary and Lions have been featured on many countries' stamps.

Another society approach that worked for me was the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick that has a growing membership and a superb journal published twice yearly. By some coincidence a few years ago, I got on the mailing list for An Post, the Irish Post Office. They send me press releases, their regular bulletin, and the new stamps for illustration purposes. At first, I included these new issues in my column for our daily newspaper. Then I got the idea that *The Shamrock Leaf*, the publication of New Brunswick's Irish group, may want some information about stamps from Ireland. Did they? They certainly did. Now I have an ongoing column for each issue.

All these ideas may not work, but some will. I am always looking for new places to put in a word about stamps. I once found a postal history cover dating to 1905 at a stamp show that had a very specific reference to an historic personality in a north east region of New Brunswick. I approached the editor of the weekly newspaper there and had my suggestion accepted for a short news item.

To dismiss writing for the non-philatelic press means missing a fine opportunity to let people know how important postage stamps are, not only for those who collect them, but also for their history, art, and other significant factors. One veteran collector told me recently that when she was a child she learned a great deal of history and geography from postage stamps. An article in a publication may awaken others, especially youth, to this long-proven fact.

One point that must be made clear. Such writing will never lead to an early retirement or a posh retreat in some secluded spot in the universe. Few, if any, society journals pay for material. My daily newspaper provided a small fee, but the others were a labor of love with the fun of sharing and spreading the news about what is one of the most wonderful hobbies in the world.

If each member of Writers's Unit 30 were to produce a published piece in a non-philatelic publication in 2005, it could have far-reaching effect. □

EDITOR WANTED

The national Duck Stamp Collectors Society (NDSCS) is seeking an editor to handle the quarterly editing and composition of their newsletter. Interested parties are requested to submit a sample of their work to Dr. Ira Cotton, 9939 Broadmoor Rd., Omaha, NE 68114, email: Cotton@Novia.net. Include compensation requirements—volunteers happily accepted! □

►►Defending Philately (*continued from page 3*)

whose readers number in the millions, to discover as one of their writers stated, that stamps collecting is "an embarrassing hobby."

Excuse me? I am not embarrassed! Are you?

This was in an article about the "blog of the year." For those of you who don't know what a blog is, it is a journal of daily activities some people write and then publish to a website so other, presumably snoopy, people can read it. Now, I don't know about you, but I have no interest in doing this myself. Most of my entries would read: "Woke up (thank God!). Got dressed. Read my e-mail. Ate something. Went for a run. Ate something else. Watched some TV and fell asleep in my chair." Oh sure, there was that day I went to the White House and the time I got chased by a bull, but you'd have to wade through a whole lot of boring repetition to get to the exciting bits.

But I digress. So anyway, then we get this guy in *Time Magazine* telling us our hobby is embarrassing and extolling the virtues of a blog at the same time.

Excuse me?

To make matters worse, on the rare occasions when a stamp collector is depicted in film or in literature, it is usually as a wacko psychopath, which, if true WOULD be embarrassing. But it's not true. Why do we put up with it? How stamp collecting got this black eye is a mystery to me. Kings and Presidents used to be stamp collectors. Scholarly pursuits such as philately were heralded, not mocked. Collecting stamps was a cool thing to do then, but now we are merely "embarrassing." Up till now, we haven't done much to defend our beloved hobby or ourselves.

We need to begin to create a new, improved image for stamp collecting and its participants. We can do that by writing interesting articles about stamps and having those articles published in arenas where the general public will be exposed to them. Little by little, this will make a difference. Think of it as benign brainwashing. It is something everyone reading this article can do.

This year, resolve to write an article about some aspect of your collection for publication in a non-philatelic journal. You can do it, and you WILL make a difference.

In advance – thank you!



WRITING/LAYOUT MENTORING

Barth Healey, a senior staff editor at *The New York Times* and an accredited national and international literature judge, is ready, willing and able to review society journals and other publications and offer some constructive comments. He has also had extensive writing and layout experience. Send two or three recent issues to him at 86 Bar Beach Road, Port Washington, NY 11050-4029. (Supplying return postage would be a nice gesture.)□

Stamp Collecting in an E-Mail Age

by Sandeep Junnarkar

Living along a remote stretch of Northern California's redwood coast, Oliver Seeler painstakingly tracks down stamps from around the world. But not just any stamps. He collects only those with images of bagpipes.

Mr. Seeler, the 60-year-old chief of the Albion-Little River Volunteer Fire Department, came to his hobby through his work selling bagpipes and bagpipe music. Pursuing such a niche might once have required a trip to a collectors' convention, or a chance find at a shop or show. Now, he uses auction sites, catalogs and other Web resources to identify stamps that can augment his collection, which he showcases online.

"The stamps are often difficult to find even after you have identified them," he said. "If you had to track them down by phone or by mail, it would just be prohibitive in terms of time and money."

After five years, his collection numbers 148 stamps, and has inspired a friendly rivalry. A little over a year ago, he received an e-mail message from a 41-year-old piper in Yorkshire, Sean Stewart, who had found Mr. Seeler's site and informed him about a bagpipe stamp from New Zealand that he had once seen. Their e-mail exchanges about finding that stamp transformed Mr. Stewart into an avid collector.

"Now we communicate almost daily. We are always on the hunt for stamps," said Mr. Seeler, adding that their e-mail correspondence now numbers nearly 800 messages. "We compete with each other to see who can come up with the next bagpipe stamp." (At the moment, Mr. Stewart has 218 of the 240 bagpipe stamps that they have identified.)

Mr. Seeler and Mr. Stewart's intercontinental rivalry represents just one facet of how stamp collecting has adapted to the rise of the Internet. Many enthusiasts worry that the pastime may slowly fade in the blare of video games, satellite television and iPods. But for all its emphasis on paper, ink and glue, stamp collecting has found new life in the digital age.

The hobby's online dimension is striking because most collectors are from an older generation less familiar with computers and the Internet. Still, the lure of meeting other stamp collectors, locating that one elusive stamp for a collection, or showcasing entire collections has drawn many onto the Web.

Linn's Stamp News, a weekly publication for collectors, found that 44 percent of its subscribers used computers for their collecting last year, compared with 34 percent in 1996. (And the average age of its readers last year was 65.8.)

An unintended result of displaying stamps on the Internet is the creation of galleries by individual collectors to help document and preserve the images and history of stamps. There are hundreds of exhibits broken down by themes, like stamps of birds, or by region or period.

Many philatelists say they would never see the collections were they not displayed on the Web. "Some of the stamps on my Web site are quite valuable," said Ross Taylor, a collector of Victorian stamps who lives on the outskirts of London and maintains a site at imagestheworld.org/stamps/stamps.htm. "The stamps are in the bank - and before, I could not even view them unless I took them out of the bank."

While traditional places for collectors, like conventions and stamp shops, still exist, stamp clubs on the Internet are proliferating.

"Basically, you were on your own," said Lloyd A. de Vries, president of a site for enthusiasts, the Virtual Stamp Club (virtualstampclub.com), and secretary of the American Philatelic Society, the nation's largest stamp collecting organization. "I think stamp collecting is growing because in effect we've all suddenly discovered that there are more people like us out there to talk to."

Also gone are the days of cataloging a collection in a tattered spiral notebook. Specialized database software like Stamp Keeper Deluxe, Stamp Collector's Data Base and StampCAT allows philatelists to track their inventory. Some collectors simply turn to commercial databases or spreadsheet applications.

One great challenge for collectors is to identify the lineage of a stamp. Which historical painting was it based on? When was it released, and in what quantity? What variations of the stamp exist, either in denomination or in size? The Web has transformed this arduous research task into one that is usually far more manageable.

"People post images of their stamps and ask others for help to identify the history of a particular stamp," said William F. Sharpe, the secretary of the Philatelic Computing Study Group (pcsg.org), an association dedicated to improving the hobby through computer use. "Newsgroups are another way to gather this information."

Stamp dealers also digitize their collections and post the images online or provide catalogs on CD's. But collectors often have to search each dealer's Web site for a particular stamp, making it a time-consuming process.

Some entrepreneurs, however, are creating searchable databases that include the inventory of as many dealers as are willing to pay to be included. Such portals include

Zillions of Stamps, PostBeeld and StampFinder. Online auctions are increasingly important for buying and selling stamps. While there are many sites that specialize in collectibles, eBay is by far the largest source for stamps, according to stamp enthusiasts.

"EBay and its auction cousins are really increasing the number of people collecting stamps," Mr. de Vries said. At any given time, there are 40,000 to 50,000 lots of stamps on eBay alone, by the estimate of several collectors interviewed.

In Mr. Seeler's bagpipe quest, eBay, including its German and French sites, is a primary source for acquisitions - for which he pays \$1 to \$80; often buying an entire lot for a single bagpipe stamp within it. Mr. Seeler then scans each new stamp and posts the image to his expanding Web gallery (hotpipes.com/stsmain.html), part of a site he maintains on bagpipes and their history.

The stamps available on eBay range from garden varieties to rarities in the \$6,000 range. Watchers of stamp auctions note that they have seen some available for as much as \$35,000.

Buyers can also take a chance by bidding on grab bags that contain hundreds of stamps in see-through garbage bags or cartons. These lots are often sold by the pound. Potential buyers have no idea how much the contents are worth, but hope to find a gem that allows them to double or triple their investment. On Friday afternoon, one grab bag sold for \$975 after 23 people bid on it.

But buying stamps online - especially through auction sites - can be risky. Consumer advocates warn that with stamps, unlike with other valuables, fraud artists need few special tools or skills. Counterfeiting a valuable coin takes special tools and dies; reproducing a painting requires a skilled artist.

"In other words, entrance requirements are steep - not in stamps," said George Kopecky, co-founder of Stamp Collectors Against Dodgy Sellers (scads.org), a site that regularly exposes fraudulent auctioneers and dealers on the Internet. "There are many things you can do to stamps to make them look like other much more valuable ones with as little as a pair of scissors."

A knowledgeable con artist can increase the value of a stamp with a few cosmetic changes. One common ruse is to clean up a used stamp to make it appear new, a step that may drastically increase its value.

When investigators at Scads are suspicious of a seller on eBay, they refer to the seller's eBay ID to examine the person's buying record, comparing the digital images of the stamps he bought to the ones he is selling.

"The Internet, particularly eBay, has been a boon for collectors knowledgeable enough to spot these frauds," Mr. Kopecky said. "However, the average collector is not

skilled enough to know when they're being taken."

Stamp fraud predates the Internet, of course. The main difference now is how quickly con artists can move a large volume of altered stamps over the Internet compared with earlier times.

Connoisseurs can also pull a fast one on neophytes who sell stamps without realizing their value. People troll for such bargains on the Internet. "There's a bit of greed involved in the buyer - like I can pull one over on the seller because he does not know what he has and I do," Mr. Kopecky said.

It is not the fear of being hoodwinked, however, that keeps a small group of old-timers from tapping the power of the Internet for stamp collecting. This group fundamentally believes that stamp collectors should use the postal system to communicate with one another and to buy and sell stamps.

"My feeling is that today people want instant gratification," said Estelle A. Buccino, a 71-year-old collector from Bethesda, Md. "When you have to wait to hear back from dealers or people you want to trade stamps with, that is delayed gratification."

People like Mrs. Buccino acknowledge that the Internet has enhanced stamp collecting over all and that they are among the holdouts. "It doesn't bother me," she said. "I see stamp collecting as being part of a larger social pastime. There is a pleasure in seeking stamps the old way."

The new ways are evolving. One idea that recently percolated across the Internet called for people to collect, trade and sell not the physical stamps but their digital images. With many rare stamps costing thousands of dollars, collecting digital images presented a low-cost alternative.

That proposal got little response, but a variation is slowly catching on. Mr. Taylor says he posts some images of Victorian stamps taken by permission from dealers to fill in the blanks in his collection.

Other collectors keep a digital image to remind them of a stamp they badly want for their collection, a stamp they could perhaps never afford.

"I am never going to afford the \$5 Columbian," a rare United States issue from 1893, said Mr. de Vries, noting that it can cost thousands of dollars. "But I can have a tie with the image of it, so why not have a digital image?"

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the January 20, 2005 issue of *The New York Times*. We were advised that we could reprint it, but could not edit or make any changes.

A sub-title might be "As Others See Us." In any event, it was quite a "spread" for stamp collecting! □

Ernst M. Cohn

Well known postal historian and author Ernst Cohn died December 30, 2004. He received the Writers Unit 30 Broken Pen award in 1980 and was elected to the Writers Hall of Fame in 1986. He is best known for his research and writing on the postal history of France, Germany, and Scandinavia, and in particular the Franco-German War (balloon mail) of 1870-1871. He was proficient in several languages and headed a team of translators during the Nürnberg Trials.

Cohn was past president of the Washington Philatelic Society, president and editor of the Postal History Society, vice president of the American Philatelic Congress, director of the American Academy of Philately, council member of the APS Writers Unit 30, chairman of the APS Postal History Committee, and the APS representative to the FIP Postal History Commission and a member of that commission's bureau. He was a member of the editorial board of the *Collectors Club Philatelist* at the time of death.

He was an accredited national and international judge and a gold medal exhibitor. In 1969 he was presented the award for aerophilatelic literature by the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Aérophilatéliques (FISA). He received the FIP research medal in 1987 and the APS Luff award for distinguished philatelic research in 1995. In 2004 he received the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Award of the Collectors Club for distinguished service to philately.

Over the years Ernst Cohn contributed many articles to *The Posthorn*, the *France & Colonies Specialist*, the *American Philatelic Congress Book*, *American Philatelist*, *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*, *Stamp Collector*, *German Postal Specialist*, *FFE Journal*, the Philatelic Foundation's series of *Opinions*, as well as many other U.S. and foreign philatelic periodicals. His "Postal History Notes" column appeared for twelve years in the *American Philatelist* and during that period surveys proved his column to be the most popular. He wrote the postal history judging section of the *APS Manual of Philatelic Judging* for three editions. He was the first one to present an APS seminar on judging postal history and the second one to present seminars on judging philatelic literature.

Among the books he wrote are *The Flight of the Ville d'Orléans* (1978), *A Book of Postal History* (1988), *Ordinary Mail by Diplomatic Means in the Siege of Paris 1870-1871* (1995), and *Unusual Mail in Occupied France 1870-1871* (2000). He was working on another postal history book at the time of death.

He was a founding member of the Académie d'Etudes Postales (later renamed Académie Européenne d'Etudes Philatéliques et Postales), a foreign corresponding member of both the Académie de Philatélie (France) and Académie de Philatélie de Belgique, and a member of the Society of Postal Historians (UK).

Alan Warren

George W. Brett

George Brett died on January 14, 2005 at age 92. He was a man who truly embodied all of the best in our hobby. Friendly, seldom without a smile and a good word, he was one of the most knowledgeable individuals in the philately of the United States. He willingly shared his scholarship with others and encouraged them in their studies.

One of his particular interests centered on the production of stamps by the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Some collectors, knowing that he worked for the government, jumped to the conclusion that he was a Bureau employee. He wasn't, but he probably knew more about the Bureau's stamp production than many who did work there.

George was a native of Iowa and returned there in his final years. He had a diverse career that included service in Panama for the post office, the Navy during the second world war and a geologist with the United States Geological Survey in Washington. He earned a Master of Science degree in 1961.

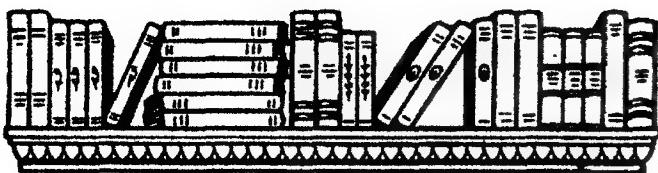
The author of an extraordinary number of articles, we know him best for his contributions to United States stamps and their production. The majority of his writings appeared in the *U S Specialist* and its precursor, the *Bureau Specialist*. George was also a frequent contributor to *The Essay Proof Journal*, *The American Revenuer*, the *American Philatelic Congress Book* and others. He had a particularly compelling essay in the January-February 1984 issue of *The Collectors Club Philatelist*. Titled "Is There an End to Philatelic Study?" he concluded "No, there will never be an end to philatelic study on any issue or facet—except as we ourselves will it." This was followed by six examples from 1845 to the present awaiting research. He also occasionally wrote on subjects beyond the US. An example is "Mexican Revenue Multicolor Printing 1907-1915" that appeared in March 1984 issue of *The American Revenuer*.

Few received as many honors as George Brett and none more deservedly. In 1979 he was inducted into our Writers Hall of Fame. Other accolades include the Lichtenstein Award of the Collectors Club, the APS Luff Award, Philatelic Achievement Award from the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, a three-time winner of the USSS's Hopkinson Award, both the McCoy and Colby Awards from the American Philatelic Congress and others. George held many offices in the United States Stamp Society and was the only person inducted into that group's Hall of Fame while still living. He was very active in the Canal Zone Study Group and served on the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee in the early 1960s.

In all of this, he was a very kind and decent person.

Joseph E. Foley

Note: Consulted were: the article index of the APRL, the obituary in the February 7, 2005 issue of *Linn's* and *The Collectors Club Philatelist*.



REVIEWS

NOTE: Material for review may be sent to the editor at the address noted on the inside front cover. Reviews are also welcomed from others. Reviews from those having an interest in the item such as publishers, distributors, etc., must include a copy of the publication with the review [which, on request, we will return]. *Philatelic Communicator* reviews should be concise and stress those aspects that are helpful examples (positive or negative) for other authors, editors and publishers.

The Mail Road across Land and Sea, Postal Museum Publication No. 53, by Bo Andersson, Jan Andersson, Ulla Clerc, Gabriele Prenzlau-Enander, and Pernilla Åström, Postal Museum Box 2002, 10311 Stockholm, Sweden, 2004, 128 pages, 5½ by 8¼", soft covers, perfect bound, in English, Approximate cost \$12 plus \$12 mailing to the United States, ISBN 91-975051-0-2.

This book appears to be an expanded version of Jan Andersson's *The Mail Road across Åland*, published by the Archaeological Section of the Åland Government and available from Åland Posten. The new book was released in conjunction with the Swedish Post Museum's temporary exhibit last year of the same name. It is the story of the mail route established in 1638 to carry the mails from Stockholm across Åland to Turku, Finland.

The route dates back to the Middle Ages but was declared for use in conveying mail two years after Sweden established its postal service in 1636. Various inns and farms along the route were responsible for providing food, lodging, and services to the postmen, including conveyance of the mail by sea.

Dispatches were weekly with extra ones introduced from time to time. Mail service was interrupted during the Russian wars. The significant towns along the route from Stockholm to Grisslehamn are described first. Similar treatment is given to the remainder of the route across Åland and into southwestern Finland. Cannons were used to signal ice conditions between Åland and the mainland.

The Finnish postal service began in 1638 and postage rates were set from Stockholm to Turku. During periods of cholera outbreak, special regulations were enacted for handling the mail and disinfecting the clothing of mail carriers.

Again, the towns and villages along the mail road across Åland and from the coast of Finland to Turku are described. Many of the landmarks along the route are detailed in the text and with modern day photos. These are coupled with older photos, drawings, a few postal artifacts, and maps to bring the ancient post road to life.

Today portions of the mail road are still preserved, sometimes parallel to modern roads, and are sought out by tourists for hiking and sightseeing. Each chapter ends with bibli-

graphic sources. Although there is no index, there is an alphabetical geographic register.

The book is a wonderful historic and cultural journey along a fascinating mail route in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. It is an invitation for travelers to revisit an important aspect of Swedish and Finnish history of the mails.

Alan Warren

A PAIR OF STAMP IDENTIFIERS

American Philatelic Society Stamp Identifier, third edition, revised and expanded, Kim J. Kowalczyk, editor, 2004, American Philatelic Society, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellfonte, PA 16823, 124 pages, 4 x 8¾", soft cover, spiral bound, \$12 (\$9.60 to APS members), ISBN 9-933580-15-2.

and

Linn's Stamp Identifier, revised and expanded, Donna O'Keefe, Rick Miller, editors, 2004, Linn's Stamp News, 911 Vandemark Rd., Sidney, OH 45365, 190 pages, 6 x 9", soft cover, spiral bound, illustrations, \$11.99 (Amos Advantage \$10.99), ISBN 1-932180-06-0.

Comparisons may be odious but when two books appear at the same time on the same subject, it seems to be the obvious course of action. Both of these new editions have changed from perfect to spiral binding. Having a reference book that lies flat when opened is real convenience. Both have expanded their content considerably.

Each have foreign alphabets: Linn's has Greek (with the letters spelled out, e.g., X, χ as "chi"), Cyrillic, Hindi consonants, Hindi vowels, Gujarati consonants, Gujarati vowels, Orya consonants and Orya vowels. The APS has Arabic, Chinese (simple and formal) Greek (only the Roman counterpart letters given for the Greek, e.g., X, χ as "H"), Hebrew and Russian.

The introduction in the APS Identifier would benefit from an explanation of the listings and their conventions. While a little study will make it evident, the use of italics, em dashes, brackets, parenthesis and year dates could be explained. Noted is the cooperation of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors and their searchable online identifier (www.iswsc.org). Worth checking out.

The APS listings are presented alphabetically with a Cyrillic and Greek section noted at the end. However, it appears that if a word begins with a letter about the same as the Roman alphabet (i.e.: "В.НІПЕТРОС" [Epirus] or "ВОСТЧНАР КОРРЕСПОНДЕНЧІЯ" [Russia-Offices in Turkey]), it is in the regular section.

The 133 pages of illustrations in the Linn's product is very useful. In addition to hard-to-identify regular postage stamps, locals, revenues, seals and various cinderella items are shown. Where it is a postage stamp, the Scott catalog number is given. The quality of these illustrations is quite good—to the point where the stamp noted on page 158 as Ireland Scott #14 is really Scott #38, a minor point since the purpose is to identify the country. The organization of this section is very user-friendly.

Linn's also has Greek and Cyrillic sections at the end of the

regular alphabetical listings. Unlike the APS book, it appears that all Greek and Cyrillic designations are in these sections regardless of the configuration of the initial letter. The introductory chapters are helpful.

A too quick appraisal might lead a collector to buying just the Linn's book. Taking a closer look, each book contained some entries that were not in the other. While there is a great overlap, there are enough differences to make it worthwhile to buy both.

Postryttaren, Museum Yearbook 2004, Postmuseum Sweden, Stockholm, 2004, 160 pages, 6½ x 9¾", hard-bound, in Swedish, ISSN 0586-6758.

The annual yearbook from the Swedish postal museum in the old town section of Stockholm is not unlike the American Philatelic Congress Book. This is the 54th year for the Swedish book that contains a number of scholarly articles as well as some news about the museum's activities. The first article offers a glimpse at the letters and writings of Axel Oxenstierna, the 17th century civil servant who was much involved with establishing the government's postal system.

Other articles in this nicely presented book discuss noted Swedish stamp dealer Harry Wennberg, the centenary of Swedish booklet stamps, the centenary of the Stockholm Philatelic Society, the Postdiligens service (truck, bus) during the 20th century, and thematic collecting based on the life of Gustav II Adolf. The book concludes with an overview of the museum's exhibitions and research projects for 2003.

Publication of *Postryttaren* is sponsored by the Friends of the Postmuseum, who receive a copy automatically with membership. Further details on the Friends group, the museum, and its publications can be obtained from Postmuseum, Box 2002, 10311 Stockholm, Sweden, or their website www.posten.se/museum.

Alan Warren

Norgeskatalogen 2005, Oslo Filatelistklubb, 2004, 448 pages, 6 by 8½", perfect bound, soft covers, in Norwegian with some English, \$59 from Jay Smith & Associates, Box 650, Snow Camp NC 27349.

This is the 57th edition of the specialized catalog of Norway and it continues to maintain the high quality of recent years. Although the listings are in Norwegian, the introductory material and occasional summaries throughout are also in English. All stamps are shown in color.

Specialized listings include booklets, coils, franking machine labels, souvenir sheets, blocks of 4, postal rates, and discussions on paper, watermarks, 19th century postal markings, and identifying the varieties of the posthorn series. As usual, two specialized articles are found in this edition only—one on stamp designer Johs. Hauklund, and the other on collecting first day covers of Norway. Highly recommended for the Norwegian philatelist.

Alan Warren

Grænse-Forsendelser / Grenz-Sendungen: Denmark/Germany by Jørgen Kluge, Fløng Hedehusene

Stamp Society, Denmark, 2004, 104 pages, 8½ x 11¾", soft covers, perfect bound, in Danish and German with English summary, \$35 postpaid from the author, Charlottegaardsveg 139, 2640 Hedehusene, Denmark.

This is the story of local mail in the border district between Denmark and Germany from 1865 to 1980 where special rates prevailed. An 1865 agreement between the two territories established special postal rates to specific area post offices. Several revised agreements were signed over the years, altering the conditions for this border mail.

In general, local rates applied to these border district mails between Denmark and Germany. The mails covered include letters and post cards, printed matter, product samples, commercial papers, and services such as registered, express, and insured mail. The book consists mostly of rate tables with periods of usage, weight steps, and post offices served. The data is useful to postal history collectors to explain rates between two towns at any time during the period covered.

The tables are arranged alphabetically by name of the town of origin in either Denmark or Germany. A few color illustrations of such mail are shown near the end of the book. Copies of some of the pertinent postal agreements covering these regulations are reproduced. The list of sources that concludes the book is not specific for journal articles but rather mentions the title with no record of date, author, or article.

Alan Warren

FACIT 2005 Special, Facit Förlags AB, Västerås, Sweden, soft covers, perfect bound, 888 pages, 6½ x 9¾", in Swedish and English, \$53.50 from Jay Smith & Associates, Box 650, Snow Camp NC 27349.

This authoritative catalog continues to grow in quality and size. It is the basic information source for collectors of all the Nordic countries including Åland and the Faroes. The stamps are shown in color. For Sweden, tables show values of stamps on covers for the early periods. Value listings also include first day covers, booklets, and franking labels among others.

The Finland listings also cover Aunus, Karelia, and North Ingermanland. For Nordic country collectors, this is the recommended comprehensive reference catalog for one-stop shopping.

Alan Warren

Det lille bibliotek, bind 1 (The Little Library, Vol. 1), Peer-Christian Ånensen, ed., Norsk Filatelistforbund, Oslo, 2004, 96 pages, 6½ x 9 ½", perfect bound, soft covers, in Norwegian, 100 NKR (approximately \$16) plus shipping from Skanfil AS, Box 2030, 5504 Haugesund, Norway.

This is the first in a planned series of handbooks from the Norwegian Philatelic Federation. Individual chapters are written by various authors and summarize interesting topics for collectors. The series is intended to supplement the annual yearbooks that reprint major articles from the many society and club journals of Norway.

The first article discusses and records pictorial cancellations of interest to thematic collectors. The cancels are illustrated including some minor varieties and with beginning and ending use dates. Another next article describes and lists the

Norwegian postal savings bank stamps.

Still other chapters address handstamps for delivering priority mail after normal dispatch, souvenir cards signed by stamp designers, postage due markings, form #73 official post cards, free advertising post cards, and CPR post cards or Create online Postcards for Real, among other topics.

Text and illustrations are clear and nicely arranged. This first in a new series of handbooks should add a new dimension to one's philatelic library of Norway.

Alan Warren

Copenhagen Copenhagen: Viewed Through its Stamps, by Erik Jensen, Post and Tele Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen, 2004, 80 pages, 8 x 9", soft covers, perfect bound, in English, 165 DKr (approximately \$30) plus shipping from the museum at Box 2053, 1012 Copenhagen, Denmark, ISBN 87-90768-19-1.

The title is not a mistake or redundant but stands for the postal designation Kjøbenhavn K. The second K stands for Copenhagen's delivery district of the city's letter post office. In this booklet the museum's curator, Erik Jensen, takes the reader on a tour of the center of Denmark's capital, using the country's stamps for illustration. One can easily take his/her own walking tour of the city with this book in hand and learn a lot of history in the process.

Two walking tours are described, each taking in over a dozen sites reflected in excellent color photos of the buildings as well as the stamps associated with them. One can visit churches, palaces, botanical gardens, the waterfront, the stock exchange, and public squares. This booklet provides a wonderful tie between philately and the local history of downtown Copenhagen. A Danish language version of the book is also available from the museum at the same price.

Alan Warren

4 Rings - The History of Audi by Peter C. Elias, published by the author, 2003, an eBook CD, \$14.95 + postage (\$1.50 US, \$5 foreign) from the author at Box 940427, Plano, Texas 75094 or contact by email at peter@pcelias.com.

This is a topical CD that is aimed at collectors interested in automobiles and their history. In this case Audi and the related firms including Horch, DWK, Wanderer, NSU, Auto Union, Mercedes, Volkswagen, Fiat, Porsche and others. The graphics are excellent. Included are some ephemera, progressive proofs and specimens. The text is very concise.

After examining this CD I asked the author if he would provide some advice for our members. The result is the lead article in this issue. A very impressive feature was the ease in navigating through this eBook. There are 171 "pages" to this book. It has a table of contents, a bibliography and an index. Moving the cursor to a particular line on the index and clicking brings that page up on the screen. The viewer has a choice of "turning the pages" or keying automatic and just sit back and your off and running.

The author advises that the book will run on any PC with WindowsXP and on some Mac's that run the OS-X operating system. It ran fine on my Windows98. He also notes that if the

contents of the CD are copied to a local hard drive, it will run faster. The price of \$14.95 seems quite reasonable and quite a bit less than some other philatelic CDs. Perhaps a question to pose is: what is an appropriate price for a do-it-yourself CD?

Members contemplating producing an eBook might want to obtain this one as an guide.

JEF

The Norwegian War and Field Post Society recently released three monographs related to Norway and WW II activities. In order to reach a wider audience, the booklets have been published in English.

Norwegian Officers in German Captivity 1940-1945 and their Prisoner Mail by Erik Lørdahl, War and Philabooks Ltd., Norway, 2004, 40 pages, 6½ x 9½", soft cover, perfect bound, in English, \$16 plus \$10 shipping to USA from the publisher, Gydas v. 52, 1413 Tårnåsen, Norway, ISBN 82-995588-6-7.

Key Norwegian officers are discussed, the circumstances of their capture, and the camps they were relocated to. These include Schokken, Grune bei Lissa, and Schildberg, and eventually Luckenwalde near Berlin. Following liberation, the officers were returned via the Russian zone, American zone, and then by ship from Denmark to Oslo.

The text is nicely illustrated with photos, drawings, and mail such as Red Cross forms and other stationery. The prisoner mail is described with details on camp origin, number of prisoners, number of letters, rarity values, and camp location dates. A major table lists the censor markings found on mail to and from POW officers, and illustrates each marking. A brief list of literature sources is presented.

Alan Warren

Polizeihäftlingslager (Police Prisoner Camp) Grini 1941-1945 and the Prisoner Mail by Erik Lørdahl, War and Philabooks Ltd., Norway, 2004, 48 pages, 6½ x 9½", soft cover, perfect bound, in English, \$16 plus \$10 shipping to USA from the publisher, Gydas v. 52, 1413 Tårnåsen, Norway, ISBN 82-995588-7-5.

Norwegian resistance fighters, saboteurs, and other political prisoners who worked on resistance or civil disturbances were imprisoned by the Germans in several camps in Norway. The largest was Grini near Oslo. Women and young boys were segregated in their own departments.

The author describes briefly the German camp organization and the prisoners' internal organization at Grini. Some of the other camps around Norway are mentioned. Immediately after the war, Grini became Ilebu Prison and housed traitors and those that had cooperated with the Germans.

Lørdahl then discusses the handling of mail and parcels at Grini and presents an extensive table that categorizes various forms and stationery used in the camp with details of dimensions, paper color, period of use, and a rarity scale. Examples of each form are shown.

Administrative cachets, censor markings and other special labels and cachets are also listed. A few literature sources are

given but many of the examples mentioned are from private collections. Text and illustrations are clear and nicely laid out.

Alan Warren

Deutsches Dienstpostamt Oslo 1942-1945 by Bjørn E. Bunæs, War and Philabooks Ltd., Norway, 2004, 72 pages, 6½ x 9½", soft cover, perfect bound, in English, \$26 plus \$10 shipping to USA from the publisher, Gydas v. 52, 1413 Tårnåsen, Norway, ISBN 82-995588-8-3.

This booklet is an expanded version of Bunæs' articles that appeared recently in the Norwegian War and Field Post Society journal. In order to handle official mail during WW II in occupied territories, the German Service Mail Offices were established (Deutsches Dienstpostamt). Such mail included mostly free franked items related to party offices, field hospitals, material supply departments, reserve and training units and their staff. Private mail from these organizations had to be franked.

The handling of this official mail at the Oslo office is described. A special rate table shows the postage required by relatives and employees for mail sent to the DDP—letters, post cards, registered matter, and parcels. Examples of official mail and private mail handled by this office are shown with many in color.

Branch offices in Drontheim, Narvik, and Tromsø are mentioned. A scheme of post box (P) numbers for official mail coming into Oslo was developed for mail going to specific agencies, thus helping the DDP to sort the large volume of inbound items. A list of sources and a list of German abbreviations and terms translated into English are useful tools. The English text is then repeated in Norwegian without the illustrations.

An elaborate table lists cancels, administrative cachets, and labels and stationery with size, rarity, period of use and illustrations. Appendices reproduce German postal communications that bear on this mail. The War and Field Post Society recognizes that this monograph is a starting point for compiling this data, and requests additional information from others who may be able to expand the work.

Alan Warren

Index to The Cinderella Philatelist 1986-2000 compiled by Michael J. James, Cinderella Stamp Club, 2003, 174 pages, 5½ x 8¾", soft cover, perfect bound, Available from John Booth, "Treetops," Ambrose Hill, St. Keyne, Liskeard, Cornwall, PL14 4RL, UK, at £6 + shipping, £1.50 surface overseas or £2.50 by air, ISBN 0-9546087-0-4.

Locating information on an elusive stamp can be a challenge. On a cinderella item, it can quickly approach the proverbial “needle in a haystack.” This cumulative subject index may ease the problem. It is both a subject and author index. In addition to covering fourteen years of *The Cinderella Philatelist*, the index includes the publications of the various study groups of the Cinderella Stamp Club, which before 1999 published separate newsletters. (They are now integrated into *The Cinderella Philatelist*.)

Still available from the same source is the *Index to The*

Cinderella Philatelist 1961-1985 and to The Private Post 1977-1985. Credit card payment is accepted and an order form may be downloaded from the Club's website www.cinderellastampclub.org.uk. Combining these two publications and continuously updating them would be a “natural” addition to this website.

JEF

Censuren i Danmark 1940-1947 (Censorship in Denmark) by Anker Bloch Rudbeck and Otto Kjærgaard, Kjøbenhavns Philatelist Klub, Box 3, 1001 Copenhagen K, Denmark, 2004, 180 pages, 8½ x 8½", hardbound, in Danish with English summary, approximately \$45 plus shipping, ISBN 87-983015-8-6.

German censorship of Danish mail during WW II took place in Denmark as well as in Germany. This book discusses the periods of censorship within Denmark and where it took place including immediately after the war. Outbound mail from Denmark was censored in Copenhagen beginning July 15, 1940. The handling of the mail there is described and examples of Danish handstamps and resealing tapes are shown.

Details are presented for export licenses required for parcels, and how registered and insured mail was censored. The special markings and labels used in censoring these classes of service are illustrated. Inbound and outbound printed matter had its own requirements. One chapter describes how censorship was avoided by smuggling, by using undercover addresses in Sweden for forwarding mail, and communicating through the Red Cross.

In 1944 the censorship office was moved from Copenhagen to Sønderborg in southern Denmark. Many of the Copenhagen censor devices were used there until new ones could be made. Censorship of telegrams is briefly described. The handling of censorship immediately following the end of the war is detailed, particularly for mail going to former axis nations.

The censor markings and sealing tapes used just after the war are also illustrated. Some mail was returned to the sender for various reasons and the markings and labels are shown. Examples are seen of double censored covers where senior censors were checking at random on their own employees.

Appendices show examples of censorship handstamps and resealing tapes with periods of use, dimensions, and varieties, as well as the German markings and tapes used in Sønderborg later in the war, and those employed in censorship after the war ended. Other appendices list the post-war censor numbers recorded to date, special instructions to censors, and a list of key dates and events related to handling the postwar mail.

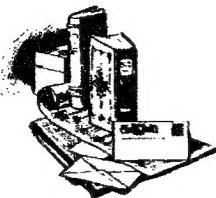
An extensive bibliography offers sources for further study. This is an excellent treatment of censorship of mails in Denmark during and just after WW II, and pulls together information from a number of monographs by earlier researchers in this field. Illustrations are excellent and in color throughout.

Alan Warren □

Not that the story need be long, but it will take a long while to make it short.

—Henry David Thoreau

LETTERS



From Pete Mosiondz, Jr.: I thought perhaps that my colleagues might want to know what has been going on with me over the past several years—in particular, my leaving and then rejoining many philatelic organizations, including the Writers Unit.

I had been very ill during this trying period. Doctors were treating me for various ailments. On November 9, 2004, I was operated on for colon cancer. I am pleased to say that I am now cancer-free.

My surgeon did scold me though. He said that I was carrying the cancer for anywhere from three to five years. The truth of the matter is that I failed to have any colonoscopies performed after I turned the half-century mark.

In any event, my recovery has been miraculously quick. I am thrilled to be returning to my philatelic writing as well as to my stamp dealership. I hope to have my byline in three or four philatelic publications during the New Year. I am also taking Janet Klug up on her challenge by trying to find one or more non-philatelic publications that will accept some of my stamp stories.

My sincere thanks go out to all my friends who have become aware of these facts and have sent their prayers and well wishes. I am blessed to have so many friends.

From Alan Warren: Ken Sanford's "Computer Corner" in the Fourth Quarter 2004 *PC*, as usual, had a number of good tips for members. In his final paragraph he discusses the use of spacing between sentences, i.e., whether one or two spaces should be used after the period of one sentence before beginning the next.

I believe the two-space break is a holdover from the days of the typewriter, and was a convention used in that medium. However, I also believe it is no longer necessary in our electronic age and in fact, in most printed materials, the extra space appears awkward. As an editor I occasionally still receive manuscripts with the two-space sentence break and have a bit of work to do to straighten that out. Editor's note: Some word processing systems have a mass change capability. With WordPerfect you can go to "Edit," then "Find and Replace." In that window insert a period followed by two spaces in the "Find" box and a period followed by one space in the "Replace with:" box. Click the "replace all" button and all of the double spaces will convert to single spaces. Alan Warren cautions that some applications of "Find and Replace" may exceed your intent.

From Gerald J. Gallagher: *PC* continues to brighten the mailbox, and I wish to renew for three years.

As writing needs all the encouragement it can get these days, my check also includes a donation to the Unit's general fund.

From John A. Edwards, Editor *The Mayflower*: I read with interest the article by Joseph Foley in the Winter 2005 issue of the [CAC] Newsletter, "Some Thoughts on Newsletters." One omission from the article was discussion about the need for editorial policy.

It is important for editors to be clear and consistent on what they will print and what degree of editorial changes they will make to articles submitted for publication. It is also a good idea to publicize these to any potential contributors. I published the following about four years ago as editor of the journal of the American Stamp Club of Great Britain:

My policy is to avoid changing facts or distorting the meaning of any articles, letters, etc. received for publication in *The Mayflower*. I try to operate a "non-intrusive" editorial pen. All contributions are welcomed, including criticisms.

When printing contributions I reserve the right to delete words that do not add anything to the meaning or seem superfluous, and to amend grammar and punctuation where I feel it can be improved. I reserve the right to delete anything that is potentially libelous or seriously contentious, or likely to cause offence, or bring the Club into disrepute.

Of course, having a stated editorial policy does not always prevent disputes with contributors who feel that changes made are unnecessary. If I make any major changes to an article I always check back with the author before publication. This avoids later accusations of making arbitrary changes.

I hope this is useful to editors of society newsletters and journals.

The article "Some Thoughts on Newsletters" originally appeared in the Second Quarter *Philatelic Communicator* and was reprinted in the APS CAC Newsletter. Mr. Edwards' letter was in regard to the reprint and considered of interest to WU30 members. Ed. □

CALLENS RECEIVES MILITARY SOCIETY'S AWARD FOR BEST ARTICLE

Roger Callens of Belgium won the award for the best article to appear in the 2003 issues of the *Military Postal History Society Bulletin*. The quarterly journal is published by the Military Postal History Society and edited by David A. Kent.

Callens was recognized for his series that focused on several aspects of World War II. Titles included "The RAF Retreat from Burma," "China's Lifeline," "The Jewish Brigade Group" and "The Yunnan Force."

The award was established in 1999. Information on the Society may be obtained from its website: www.militaryPHS.org. □

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WU 30 CRITIQUE SERVICE

Past president Charles J. Peterson operates the WU30 Critique Service. There is no charge for the service. Details are:

Periodicals—Submit the four most recent issues. Include postage equivalent to four times the first class mailing fee. Any unused amount will be returned. Critiques can be expected in about 30 days.

Books/manuscripts—Inquire before sending, with a brief description of the item. Please include a stamped, addressed envelope for the reply. The time element for a book or manuscript can vary depending on length, other similar requests at hand and other commitments.

All submissions & correspondence should be sent to Charles J. Peterson, Box 5559, Laurel, MD 20726. □